MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I ask whether a survey of the canal was not made so early as in 1099?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): All along the member was giving dates in the Christian era and all the dates that I have are also in the Christian era. He now gives a date in the Malayalam era. While I am anxious to give as much information as I can, I am sorry that I am not in possession of date in the Malayalam era. I would therefore request the member to refer me to dates according to the Christian era.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I draw the attention of the member that, even so early as during the sixth session of the old Legislative Council, in reply to question No. 149, Government gave the very same answer on this matter as they have now given to part (*c*) of the present question?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): That makes it clear that my present answer is the proper one.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What are the reasons for this long delay in deciding the question?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is rather a big question. As I have already explained, in 1929, a rough estimate was prepared, and it was thought that it would cost only Rs. 24,000. The preparation of a detailed estimate showed that it would cost something more than Rs. 70,000, which the Government were not then prepared to spare for this purpose. A fresh proposal has now been made, and is under the consideration of Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): How long will it take for the Government to come to a final conclusion in the matter?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice, Sir.

Newspaper articles on Government officers.

40. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they take note of reports appearing in newspapers containing complaints against their officers; and

(*b*) what action they take upon such reports?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Enquiries are made through proper channels whether there is any truth in the reports and then due notice is taken according to the circumstances of the cases.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Who brings these newspaper reports to the notice of the Government?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Ordinarily, the Publicity Officer.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Are the Government satisfied that all reports worthy of their notice are being brought to their notice in time by that officer?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I have the number of reports that have been brought to the notice of Government during the course of this year?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice. I do not remember the exact number.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I at least know whether any complaint has been brought to the notice of Government by the Publicity Officer?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to give one or two instances?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Will I be in order, Sir, if I give names?

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know, Sir, whether Government ordinarily consulted the authors of such reports?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, not in all cases.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know what exactly is the channel through which enquiry is made?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Through the Head of the Department concerned.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether any action is taken against those newspapers which publish false reports?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know many papers were proceeded against for having published false reports?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Corruption among officers.

41. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have adopted any device to detect corruption among their officers; and

(*b*) if they have, the exact nature of the device?

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